

to women's Torah study. Beth's legacy will continue to grow through her students, friends, and, of course, her beautiful daughters.

I give my condolences to her parents, Elana and Zachary, her husband, Ari, her daughters, Danelle and Natalia, and her extended friends and family on this solemn occasion.

HOBART CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARD WINNERS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize the Hobart Chamber of Commerce award winners for 2008 and to congratulate one of its member businesses, Burns Funeral Home, as they celebrate a momentous milestone, 100 years of excellent service. These outstanding recipients will be honored during the Chamber's annual awards and installation banquet, which will take place on Thursday, January 29, 2009, at the Avalon Manor in Merrillville, Indiana.

The Hobart Chamber of Commerce utilizes members of the community in order to improve and develop business, industry, and the professions. Each year, the Chamber members and friends gather together to honor the Business Award Winners, Volunteers of the Year, and to commemorate specific accomplishments within the community.

Continuing a tradition that goes back well over 50 years, the Chamber will honor its 2008 Business Award Winners. The Large Business of the Year award recipient is Saint Mary's Medical Center. The hospital continues to be a leader in providing outstanding health services to the community. For the fourth consecutive year, Saint Mary's Medical Center has also won the 2008 Distinguished Hospital for Patient Safety. The Small Business of the Year award recipient is Sebo's Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. This outstanding facility has grown into a 138-bed facility offering clinical services, specialty programming for Alzheimer's and Dementia patients, rehabilitation services, and many other amenities. The New Business of the Year award is being presented to 54 Main Bistro. The owners, Dave and Linda Papp, renovated an 1895 Victorian home and turned it into a local favorite that is known for its weekly changing menu. Each business is dedicated to providing excellent business to the community and for that reason, they are to be commended.

The Hobart Chamber of Commerce will honor the Herrick Family with the Volunteers of the Year award. Dr. James Herrick, his wife Janet Herrick, and their daughter Cheryl Herrick have been dedicated volunteers in Hobart for many years. The family continues to be a staple in the community, donating their time and effort to numerous special events, fundraisers, the Kiwanis Club, Little League, and the community's school system, to name a few. For their selfless commitment to their community, I congratulate the Herrick family on this prestigious award.

The Hobart Chamber of Commerce will also congratulate Burns Funeral Home as they celebrate their 100th anniversary. In 1908, James E. Burns opened his first funeral home in

Hammond, Indiana. His business was founded on providing compassionate care to the friends and families of the departed during their time of need. It was this principle that allowed the Burns family to expand to Gary, Hobart, and finally to Crown Point in the 1980s. Today, the family owned and operated business provides the same exceptional services, and I commend Terry, Sally, Jim, Patrick, and Jimmy Burns, and their entire staff on continuing the legacy of Mr. Burns.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the Hobart Chamber of Commerce 2008 Business Award Winners, Volunteers of the Year, and also in congratulating the Burns family and their team on the 100th anniversary of Burns Funeral Home. For their dedication and commitment to the community of Hobart as well as Northwest Indiana, they are all worthy of the honors bestowed upon them.

FAIR TAXES FOR SENIORS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I recently re-introduced my bill, the "Fair Taxes for Seniors Act" (H.R. 674), which will provide a one-time increase in the capital gains tax exemption on the sale of a home for citizens who are 50 years of age or older. Passing this bill will give many seniors the additional money they need for nursing home care, medical costs, and other retirement expenses.

The Fair Taxes for Seniors Act doubles the current exemption by providing a one-time increase to \$500,000 for a single person and \$1 million for a couple that can be excluded from the sale of a principal residence for taxpayers who have reached the age of 50. Because they will be able to keep more, an added benefit is that family members and perhaps the government will be relieved of the burden of caring for these individuals as they grow older.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in co-sponsoring this important legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE WILLIAM JEREMIAH TOLTON, JR.

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Honorable William Jeremiah Tolton, Jr., known to his friends as "Jere," who passed away on Friday, January 23, 2009. Judge Tolton's lifetime of service in both the civic and social realm set a precedent of excellence in the Northwest Florida area and he will be greatly missed.

Throughout most of his 71 years, Judge Tolton's life was spent bettering the civic and social realm. After earning a B.A. and J.D. from Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, Judge Tolton moved to Fort Walton Beach, Florida where he began practicing law. The succeeding years were marked with frequent promotions as Judge Tolton be-

came the attorney for the Okaloosa County Commission and the City attorney to the City of Valparaiso, Florida. In 1972, Judge Tolton was elected to the Florida House of Representatives where he served for 4 years before resigning to accept yet another job in public service: Circuit Judge for the First Judicial Circuit of Florida.

When he retired on January 1, 2007, at the age of 69, Judge Tolton's 30 years on the bench made him the longest-tenured judge in the history of Florida's First Judicial Circuit. The 30 years encompassed some of the biggest trials in Florida, including the conviction of former Florida Senate President W.D. Childers. Additionally, Judge Tolton served as President of the Blue Ridge Institute for Juvenile and Family Law Judges and was Chairman of the Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee.

Judge Tolton is survived by his wife, the former Shari Deason, as well as his children, William Jeremiah Tolton III, Elizabeth Tolton Silk, and Timothy Tolton and his grandchild, Liam Silk. My wife Vicki and I send our most sincere condolences to the family as they grieve the loss of this exceptional father, judge, and civic leader.

Judge Tolton's longstanding career in public service will benefit the Northwest Florida community for many years to come. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the exceptional life of the Honorable William J. Tolton, Jr.

TEXAS FIGHT

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, Coach Mack Brown and the Texas Longhorn football team had a great football season. The Longhorns played tough all year, winning 12 games, and losing only once. Among their wins, I would like to especially congratulate them on their victory on a neutral field over Oklahoma; a rivalry that has existed since 1900. With Texas beating Oklahoma again, it further extends the all-time series lead to 58 wins for UT to only 40 for OU.

For the University of Texas winning titles, championships, and individual awards are nothing new. The Longhorns have a rich tradition of conference titles, National Championships, and Heisman trophy winners. You can ask any player and they will tell you that just having the opportunity to play for the University of Texas is the dream of every football player in the great state of Texas. UT players are almost all from Texas, but occasionally an out of state player has the privilege of making his way onto the Longhorn team.

This year there was once again controversy surrounding the BCS. There were several teams including Texas that had legitimate claims to be the team playing for a National Championship. I personally think Texas and the "BCS National Champion Florida Gators" should have a real national playoff game and determine the National Championship. Only through a playoff system can we have a true National Champion every year. NCAA Division II and Division III have a football playoff system that works quite well.

While Texas beat Oklahoma, they were snubbed for the Big 12 Conference title game, which meant they had no chance to play for the National Championship. In addition to this, many felt Colt McCoy should have been given more consideration for the Heisman trophy. With everything that the Longhorns had to endure, it could have been enough for any team to just throw in the towel and give up. However, Coach Mack Brown kept his team focused and committed to their motto, "Texas Fight." UT went on to play a very good Big 10, Ohio State team in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl. In a thrilling game, Colt McCoy led a "Heismanesque" last minute drive and connected with Senior Quan Cosby for a 26-yard touchdown that gave Texas the win, 24–21.

You need to only look at the upbringing of quarterback Colt McCoy and receiver Jordan Shipley to see the character the Longhorns are made of. Both Colt and Jordan's fathers were teammates and roommates while playing football at my Alma Mater, Abilene Christian University. Brad McCoy was a receiver and Bob Shipley was a running back. After Bob and Brad graduated from ACU they kept in touch, raising their two families together. The two families regularly attended church together, went fishing, and other family activities. Both Brad McCoy and Bob Shipley instilled work ethic, faith in God, and leadership qualities into their two boys.

The character of these two resonates through the whole Longhorn team. They are Texas—a team committed to each other, their coaches, and the University.

Madam Speaker, University of Texas football is as much of a part of America as the flag and apple pie. It is almost a religion in the burnt orange state of Texas.

I commend the Longhorns and coaches for a great season. I look forward to another successful year in '09 along with the 59th win over Oklahoma. Hook'em Horns!

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE FOUR IMMORTAL CHAPLAINS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to speak about an important resolution that I have reintroduced that honors the legacy of the Four Immortal Chaplains who sacrificed their lives over 65 years ago. (H. Res. 86)

On February 3, 1943, the U.S. Army Transportation Service troopship *Dorchester* was torpedoed in the North Atlantic by a German submarine. Of the 900 passengers and crew, 597 were military personnel, and four of those men were the ship's chaplains—Methodist chaplain George Lansing Fox, Rabbi Alexander Goode, Dutch Reformed minister Clark V. Poling and John P. Washington, a Roman Catholic priest. Each chaplain distributed life vests as the ship went down and then gave up their own when supply ran out. As the ship went down into the icy waters, survivors in the nearby rafts could see the four chaplains with their arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. According to eyewitnesses, the chaplains were heard offering prayers for the soldiers who had died in the wreckage.

In 1948, a stamp was issued honoring these four chaplains as true examples of "Interfaith in Action." They were recognized by Congress and the President with a special Medal of Honor for their selfless acts of courage, compassion and faith.

The heroism of these brave men should serve as an example of love for others without regard to race, religion or creed, and an acknowledgment of the potential for human compassion. This message rings true today more than ever!

That is why I have reintroduced a resolution, which remembers the Four Immortal Chaplain and requests the President issue a proclamation calling on the Federal Government, States, localities, and the people of the United States to observe a day in their honor with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

It is important their story of extraordinary faith, courage, and selflessness is heard and should guide the way we live out lives with compassion for others, in the spirit of the four Chaplains. I invite my colleagues to join with me in honoring the Four Immortal Chaplains by supporting this important resolution.

IN HONOR OF THE REV. DR. FRANK WITMAN

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of my longtime friend, the Rev. Dr. Frank Witman, who is being honored this week with the prestigious Simi Valley, California, Chamber of Commerce Strathearn Lifetime Achievement Award.

None are more deserving of this recognition than Dr. Witman.

Dr. Witman planted himself in Simi Valley when he arrived in the summer of 1969 to assume the post of senior pastor of the United Methodist Church of Simi Valley. The third-generation United Methodist Church minister immediately anchored his roots, which grew and spread with every year.

Dr. Witman served on the board of directors of the Simi Valley Rotary Club, which he joined in mid-1969, and was the recipient of the Paul Harris Award, one of the highest honors Rotary bestows upon an individual.

In 1972, he led the Simi Valley Ministerial Association to join with the Businessmen Against the Card Club Ordinance to defeat organized gambling in Simi Valley.

Six years later, Dr. Witman founded the chaplain program for the Simi Valley Police Department and, for more than 30 years, he has served as the department's senior chaplain. Dr. Witman has provided comfort, counseling, prayers, and support during most of the city's traumatic and tragic events, including the untimely death of Officer Michael Clark. His support of the city and its police officers earned him the department's Volunteer of the Year Award in 1997, the department's Lifetime Service Award in 2007, and recognition from the Simi Valley City Council in 2008.

Dr. Witman also was a charter member of the Steering Committee for Leadership Simi Valley; a charter member of the Simi Valley Hospital Board Strategic Planning Committee; Simi Valley Hospital's 1995 Volunteer Chap-

lain of the Year; and an 8-year president of the Samaritan Center for the homeless.

In 1990, I had the honor of nominating Dr. Witman to offer a prayer to open a session of the House of Representatives as guest Chaplain, which he did on May 2, 1990.

Dr. Witman retired as Senior Pastor of the Simi Valley Unified Methodist Church in 1997, but he never ended his ministry, fellowship, service, and friendship to the people of the city.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join my wife, Janice, and me in thanking the Rev. Dr. Frank Witman for his nearly four decades of selfless service to the community, and will join the Simi Valley community in congratulating him for earning the Strathearn Lifetime Achievement Award.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 39, and especially in support of Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne, IN.

Madam Speaker, Catholic schools are an incredible asset to our country. Throughout much of our history, Catholic schools have provided a solid moral and intellectual education to millions of students, and served as a crucial stabilizing force for many immigrants to our great Nation. Catholic schools have been able to build communities of character in a way unique to much of the rest of our educational system, testified to by the untold amounts of service that have been performed by their graduates.

Bishop Luers is no different. In its mission statement, Bishop Luers pledges to equip each graduate with the spiritual, academic, and social tools they need to serve God and others—that they may be light to the world, so that, in the words of Matthew, others "may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."

Madam Speaker, Bishop Luers does this incredibly well. The school has many successful graduates, an excellent graduation rate, and impressive athletic achievements. In fact, Bishop Luers has been named one of the Nation's leading Catholic high schools by the national Catholic High School Honor Roll. The men and women of Bishop Luers who each day serve students and families deserve our deep gratitude.

Let me also take a moment briefly to note the incredible work Catholic schools have done and continue to do for minorities, often non-Catholic, and often for very low cost. Indeed, in many poor neighborhoods, the Catholic school is the only good option available to parents. In this way, Catholic schools play a crucial role in the pursuit of justice by building communities that respect the dignity of all people. They deserve our support.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join with me in honoring Bishop Luers and other Catholic schools across the country. It is no exaggeration to say that such schools are critical to the future of our country.